

Remarks

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance. In addition to these reasons, and the reasons stated throughout the prosecution of this application, applicant also wishes to point out the following:

Currently amended claim 24 is directed to two layers of different adhesion promoters as described and supported in the original application on page 4/26, lines 5-9; page 4/26, line 30 to page 5/26, line 6; and page 8/26, line 6 to page 10/26, line 19. This brings about the advantages cited from page 4/26, line 30 up to page 5/26, line 6.

The embodiments covered in claims 1-23 are related to a coating on a metal reinforcement element which is a functionalized polymer compatible with and co-polymerizable with a vulcanizable composition to be reinforced by the coated metal reinforcement element.

An embodiment claimed in claims 24-37 is related to a coating where the functionalized polymer is bound to the metal surface via an adhesion promotor that is a bi-functional compound of the general formula (I) and is intercalated between the metal surface and the coating of the functionalized polymer.

The alternatives may be schematically expressed (without limitation):

Claim 1 embodiments:

[metal surface]-(X)₁ functionalized polymer-[bulk polymer]

Claim 24 embodiment:

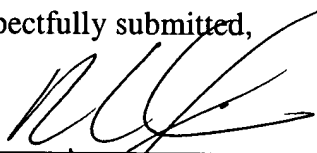
[metal surface]-(X)₂(adhesion promotor according to formula (I))(Y)₂-(X)₁ functionalized polymer-[bulk polymer]

Accordingly, in addition to the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance, claims 24-37 and 43-47 are also allowable over the art of record because of the additional novel and non-obvious structure recited above.

New claims 43-47 are allowable, as dependent on allowable independent claim 24, as claims 38-42 were allowable as dependent on allowable independent claim 1.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Haldiman Reg. No. 45,437
Husch & Eppenger, LLC
401 Main Street, Suite 1400
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1241
Telephone: 309-637-4900